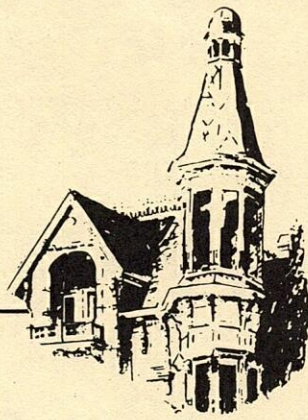


NEWSLETTER

Burton J. Williams, Director



September
1987

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

HOW DEEP ARE YOUR ROOTS?

Upon the western edge of this great continent lies the State of Oregon, a name shrouded in the mysteries of the iridescent past. Along its coastline exists a chimerical blue-gray pensive haze which in autumn dims the recesses of the forest, the hollows of its hills and pinnacles, and broods above the placid streams and the portentous Columbia like a covenant of peace. To the west the vague and receding horizon hovers paternally over the Pacific in mysterious solemnity, born of distance, silence, and solitude.

This mysterious region, so far, so fascinating, the object of so much interest and desire, inaccessible except by long voyages on mighty rivers whose sources were unknown, or by weary journeys in slow ox drawn caravans disappearing beyond the frontier, beckoned ominously to restless pioneers who succumbed to its infectious fever - "Oregon fever"!

The dawn of modern history broke upon that northwest parallelogram called Clatsop County in 1792 when Captain Robert Gray sailed over the bar of the mighty Columbia. The secrets locked in its dense forests were revealed with the arrival of Lewis and Clark in 1805. Here in Clatsop County they constructed a fort and named it for the diminishing tribe of native Indians.

Astoria and Clatsop County are the epitomy of the "Sunset Empire". People came and do come here because they hunger for the horizon, and once naturalized, the allegiance to these environs can never be forsworn. Its residents may wander. They may roam. They may move elsewhere, but no other region can diminish the mystical, emotional, indelible citizenship that this region engenders.

All, like the Biblical prodigal, yearn to return home. So - why not come home for a visit, and rekindle the reveries of all your yesteryears here at the Clatsop County Historical Society in Astoria. Remember, history begins at home, and this is where it all started.

HERITAGE CENTER PROGRESS REPORT

Work continues on the restoration of this beautiful old building, and by the end of October we hope the exterior work will be completed, including landscaping, new sidewalks, handicap access, and exterior lighting. Come see for yourself and take pride in our (and your) progress.

WISH LIST RESPONSE

We are delighted to receive so many responses to our request for a number of items which were listed in the last Newsletter. To date we have received several telephones, a desk, an Apple computer, a copy machine, several small calculators, and \$310 in cash contributions towards our Fred Meyer Charitable Trust grant matching fund. We still have a long way to go in meeting our "cash match" for this grant, and if you would send us a contribution, your society will be in your debt. Many thanks.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Did you know that your society membership now stands at 1,052? Or, that 8,922 people visited the Flavel House and Heritage Museum in August? In 1986 more than 39,000 visitors toured these two beautiful properties. This is where it's happening. Come see.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

The October membership luncheon will be at the Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Avenue, Astoria on Wednesday, October 21st at noon. The guest speaker will be Lisa Patterson of the Oregonian. Program chairman is Jean McDonald. Call the society at 325-2203 for reservations.

UPSTAIRS - DOWNSTAIRS

Our own inimitable Jean Anderson has done it again! She has seen to it that the basement of the Flavel House has been put in shape to receive visitors. It's fascinating down there. Come see what secrets lurk downstairs.

NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY/ARCHIVES

What happens to your gifts of old photographs, family Bibles, furniture and other items to CCHS? Donations are brought to me in the library on the second floor of the Heritage Center where they are put through the accessioning process. If you haven't signed a collection receipt, the office will send one for you to sign. A detailed record will be made of the name of the donor and a description of the item. We will then check for any needed repairs, give the item a number so that we will always be able to identify it and finally, place it in storage for later display or research.

"Just wait until you see the new donations", Sharon greeted me as I stopped in at the office on my way upstairs to the CCHS library one day in August. Box after box of treasures arrived on the big table in the archives workroom. Carol Moore came to the rescue helping to access more than 110 items donated from the estate of Winifred Maud Allen, a granddaughter of Hustler Van Dusen. In the boxes we found a sterling silver dresser set, a thick family Bible from 1851, a box of glass photographic plates of the interior of a Victorian home, two tiaras worn at the 1903 Regatta, a doll's trunk filled with Battenburg lace and delicate blouses with Irish lace inserts, and so many other items that give a picture of the lives of the Hustler Van Dusen family and the people of Astoria at the turn of the century.

We owe thanks to the others who have also made recent donations to our historical society: Barbara Jessen, Inez E. Hanson, D.E. Codi, Wendell Wyatt, James Chester, Agnes Wolleson, Carla Cosovich, Georgia McKay Becker, Mary Mason, Frank Hildebrand, Don Borup, and W.F. McGregor. A boon to local researchers is the donation of the old Hammond town books by Janet Stevenson, Mayor of Hammond.

When you bring your donations to the CCHS, you know they will be preserved for generations to come. Make this the month you donate to your museum!

Liisa Penner

COMING IN OCTOBER

October will find the town of Hammond, Oregon as the focus of a new exhibit in the Heritage Center Museum. The theme for this historical exhibit will be "Remembering Hammond". Anyone wishing to assist us in securing additional Hammond memorabilia please call the Executive Director at 503-325-2203. Photographs, artifacts of early Hammond, etc. will strengthen our attempt to feature this historic town. Items may be donated or placed with us on loan.

NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS

During most of the month of August we featured a beautiful photographic exhibit in gallery four of the Heritage Center entitled, "Architecture and Landscape along the Oregon Trail". This exhibit came to us from the Mid-America Arts Alliance headquartered in Kansas City, MO. It is a beautiful exhibit and we hope you will see it before it leaves us on September 29.

Also, one of our galleries now features an authentic Northwest Indian artifact exhibit representing the ancient handicraft of a vanished civilization. This fine collection will be exhibited until November 15, 1987.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oregon Dixieland Jubilee October 9, 10, 11

Monthly Luncheon October 21

Winter Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Flavel House Beginning 10/1/87
Heritage Center

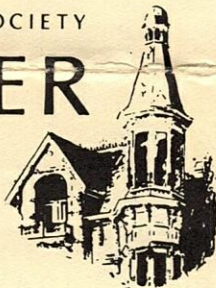
MYSTERY COUPLE

To date no one has identified the photograph of the couple printed in the last edition of the Newsletter. Take another look, maybe the mystery couple can still be identified.

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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